



**C. NELSON HARRIS**  
Mayor

# CITY OF ROANOKE

## CITY COUNCIL

215 Church Avenue, S.W.  
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, Room 456  
Roanoke, Virginia 24011-1536  
Telephone: (540) 853-2541  
Fax: (540) 853-1145

**July 3, 2006**

### **Council Members:**

Alfred T. Dowe, Jr.  
Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.  
Sherman P. Lea  
Gwen W. Mason  
David B. Trinkle  
Brian J. Wishneff

Honorable Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Council Member  
Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Council Member  
Honorable Sherman P. Lea, Council Member  
Honorable Gwendolyn W. Mason, Council Member  
Honorable Brian J. Wishneff, Council Member

**Dear Members of City Council:**

Development of the location formerly home to Victory Stadium and the surrounding vicinity is vitally important to the progress of the City of Roanoke. Conceptual plans supported by City Council are in place to develop temporary multi-use athletic facilities at this location. These fields can be utilized by the community in the fall of 2007.

The proposed field location within the framework of Rivers Edge Sports Complex also creates synergy that is essential for hosting large tournaments, which have enormous economic impact on the community and region.

To have more meaningful understanding of this project, it is important to note that the development of these proposed multi-use fields will be accomplished to provide short term relief from the current over use problem experienced with our current fields, and with nominal investment. While plans are initiated to bring these fields online, a master plan should be developed to prepare long-term use strategies for the site, bounded by the Roanoke River, Reserve Avenue, the Jefferson Street Bridge, and the Franklin Road Bridge. The master planning process should take into consideration other potential amenities that the community may wish to include at the site, such as river access, the greenway system, park facilities (restrooms, locker areas, concession points, etc.), a memorial, a music venue/amphitheater, and urban festival possibilities. With discussions currently taking place regarding a possible public amphitheatre on this site, a master planning process aligned with the fall

2006 completion deadline for the Amphitheatre Feasibility Study is most appropriate. The master planning process and, more importantly, the ultimate implementation of the plan should also consider the eventual elimination of existing buildings located at the site, as well as other important master planning considerations (parking, storm water and environmental compliance, irrigation, spectator seating, project costing, etc.), all the while maintaining an efficient, environmentally sound, and effective development.

With the above considerations in mind, we would suggest that Council initiate the following actions by virtue of this letter:

- (1) Formally request that the Roanoke School Board initiate plans to move their maintenance activity off the site and advise the City Manager of a possible timetable for that to occur;
- (2) Formally request of and work with our state delegation and officials to offer any assistance to expedite plans to move the National Guard Armory activity off the site;
- (3) Request that the City Manager provide City Council information relative to moving the Parks and Recreation Administration activities off the site;
- (4) Request that the City Manager initiate a master plan process for the site to be completed in a timely manner following receipt of the Amphitheater Feasibility Study; and
- (5) Request that City Council commit that the site remain in public use as a guiding principle of the master planning process.

It is the intent of this correspondence to remind all members of City Council and the public of the significance of this effort and the many positive impacts that it can engender for our community, and to formally launch the master planning process.

With best regards,



C. Nelson Harris  
Mayor



David B. Trinkle  
Vice-Mayor